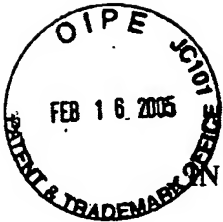


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

van Haeringen et al.

Serial No.: 10/676,849

Filed: September 30, 2003

For: UNIVERSAL VARIABLE
FRAGMENTS

Examiner: C. Wilder

Confirmation No.: 3760

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NOTICE OF EXPRESS MAILING

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PETITION TO PRESERVE A FILING DATE AND PETITION IN RESPONSE TO
NOTICE OF INCOMPLETE APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.53(e)

Attn: Office of Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The referenced application was filed on September 30, 2003, and claimed priority as a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/958,221, filed April 15, 2002, now U.S. Patent 6,686,160, issued February 3, 2004, which is a national stage of international application PCT/NL01/00177, filed March 5, 2001. (See enclosed copy of the Utility Patent Transmittal, and first page of the specification).

On March 2, 2004, the Office mailed a Notice of Incomplete Nonprovisional Application for the referenced application. The Notice stated that a filing date had not been granted for the

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01 FC:1462 270.00 DA 130.00 DP

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FC: 9204 \$130.00 CR